

APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES PATENT

**CONTROL SYSTEM METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDUCTIVE
COMMUNICATION ACROSS AN ISOLATION BARRIER**

Inventor:

James C. Calvin

NUTTER, McCLENNEN & FISH, LLP
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110-2699
Telephone (617) 439-2000
Facsimile (617) 973-9748

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Background of the Invention

This application claims the benefit of priority of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/249,145, filed November 16, 2001, entitled **CONTROL SYSTEM METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDUCTIVE COMMUNICATION ACROSS AN ISOLATION BARRIER**.

The invention relates to control systems and, more particularly, to methods and apparatus for transferring information across an isolation barrier between control devices such as, by way of non-limiting example, field devices and the systems that monitor and/or control them. The invention has application in the exchange of data/control signals in process, industrial, environmental and other control systems.

The terms "control" and "control systems" refer to the control of a device or system by monitoring one or more of its characteristics. This is used to insure that output, processing, quality and/or efficiency remain within desired parameters over the course of time. In many control systems, digital data processing or other automated apparatus monitor a device, process or system and automatically adjust its operational parameters. In other control systems, such apparatus monitor the device, process or system and display alarms or other indicia of its characteristics, leaving responsibility for adjustment to the operator.

Control is used in a number of fields. Process control, for example, is typically employed in the manufacturing sector for process, repetitive and discrete manufactures, though, it also has wide application in utility and other service industries. Environmental control finds application in residential, commercial, institutional and industrial settings, where temperature and other environmental factors must be properly maintained. Control is also used in articles of manufacture, from toasters to aircraft, to monitor and control device operation.

Modern day control systems typically include a combination of field devices, control devices, workstations and, sometimes, more powerful digital data processors. Field devices are the "eyes, ears

and hands" of the control system. They include the temperature, flow and other sensors that are installed on or in the process equipment to measure its characteristics. They also include positioners and other actuators that move or adjust the equipment settings to effect control.

5 Controllers generate settings for the control devices based on measurements from sensor type field devices. Controller operation is typically based on a "control algorithm" that maintains a controlled system at a desired level, or drives it to that level, by minimizing differences between the values measured by the sensors and, for example, a setpoint defined by the operator.

10 Workstations, control stations and the like are typically used to configure and monitor the process as a whole. They are often also used to execute higher-levels of process control, e.g., coordinating groups of control devices and responding to alarm conditions occurring within them.

In an electric power plant, for example, a workstation coordinates control devices that actuate conveyors, valves, and the like, to move coal or other fuels to a combustion chamber. The workstation also configures and monitors the control devices that maintain the dampers to control the level of combustion. The latter operate, for example, by comparing in the temperature of the combustion chamber with a desired setpoint. If the chamber temperature is too low, the control algorithm may call for incrementally opening the dampers, thereby, increasing combustion activity and driving the temperature upwards. As the temperature approaches the desired setpoint, the algorithm incrementally levels the dampers to maintain the combustion level.

The field devices, control devices, workstations and other control-related that make up a process control system are typically connected by a hierarchy of communications lines. Ever increasingly, these are Ethernet or other IP network connections, though various buses are still in use, especially linking field devices to their control devices.

Regardless, the field devices are typically electrically isolated from the rest of the control system. In the case of the electric power plant, for example, this is necessary to prevent harm to the control devices, workstations and other plant equipment -- not to mention the plant personnel -- from the high voltages and currents existing where the power is actually generated. The reverse is likewise true: static discharges or standard line voltages present in the plant control room could knock out field devices, or worse, if circuited back to the power-generating equipment.

The art suggests a number of mechanisms for transferring control and data signals between control systems and field devices across an electrical isolation barrier. These include optical and capacitance-based mechanisms, though, the most popular form of isolation relies on inductance, typically, as embodied in transformers.

Transformer-based isolation has several advantages over competing mechanisms. Among these are lower cost, durability and reliability. However, when utilizing conventional circuits such as shown in Figure 1, the bandwidth of the data transfers is limited -- unless resort is had to unduly large transformers. This can be problematic in applications where power or physical space are limited.

An object of this invention is to provide improved methods and apparatus for communication across an isolation barrier. A more particular object is to provide such methods and apparatus as are based on inductive transfer across the barrier and are suitable for use with process, industrial, environmental and other control systems.

Another object of the invention is to provide such methods and apparatus as are suited for use in transferring information between control devices that normally rely on analog signaling, such as the industry standard FoxComm™ and HART™ protocols, to communicate control, data and other information signals.

The foregoing are among the objects achieved by the invention, one aspect of which provides improved apparatus for transferring information between control devices over a galvanic or other isolation barrier. The apparatus has a modulator that generates a pulse width modulated (PWM) signal from a frequency shift keying (FSK), or other frequency modulated (FM) signal, containing information being transferred by a first control device, e.g., a controller. A transformer or other such circuit element inductively transfers the PWM signal across the isolation barrier, where it is demodulated to analog form for application to a second control device, e.g., a field device (or controller)

Further aspects of the invention provide apparatus as described above in which the PWM signal is generated from an FSK signal output by a modem, e.g., that is coupled to a control device (such as a controller) generating information to be transferred. Such an FSK signal can be compatible with a FoxComm™, HART™ or other industry standard or proprietary FSK or FM protocol.

Still further aspects of the invention provide apparatus as described above in which the PWM signal is demodulated by a low pass filter. Such a filter can be constructed, for example, using an resistor capacitor (RC) circuit. A buffer is utilized, according to related aspects of the invention, to modify the impedance of the RC circuit for output to the field device.

By way of example of the foregoing, digital signals representing command and data output by a controller are converted to analog FSK form by a modem. The analog signal is applied to a pulse width modulator that generates a fixed-frequency PWM signal having pulses whose widths vary in accord with the amplitude of the FSK signal and, therefore, in accord with the controller output. The PWM signal is carried over the isolation barrier by a transformer and routed to a low pass filter that demodulates it back into analog FSK form. The FSK signal can be routed to a field device, e.g., via an intelligent transmitter.

Further aspects of the invention provide apparatus as described above equipped for transferring information from the second control device (e.g., the field device) to the first control device (e.g., the controller). A modulator generates an amplitude modulated (AM) signal from an FSK signal embodying the information generated by the second device for transfer. That AM signal utilizes a carrier component that is based on a fixed duty cycle output of the pulse width modulator used to transfer information in the reverse direction. That AM signal is transferred over the isolation barrier by the transformer, where it is demodulated to FSK form for application, e.g., to a modem and, then, to the controller.

By way of example, an FSK data signal received from a field device is multiplied by an AND gate with the output of the pulse width modulator, which is set at a fixed width duty cycle when the controller is not transmitting. The resulting AM signal is transmitted over the transformer to the control side, where an envelop detector demodulates it back to FSK form for further demodulation to digital, by the controller's modem, and processing by the controller.

Further aspects of the invention provide individual control system devices constructed and operated in accord with the foregoing.

Apparatus configured and operating as described above have the advantage of permitting information encoded in analog FSK signals (and, in turn, encoded in PWM and AM signals) to be transmitted between electrically isolated components of a control system over small, low power transformers.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A more complete understanding of the invention may be attained by reference to the drawings, in which

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Figure 1 depicts a prior art configuration for transmitting information over an isolation barrier between a control device and a field device;

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Figure 2 depicts a system according to the invention for transmitting frequency shift keying (FSK) signals that are, in turn, encoded in PWM signals over an isolation barrier from control device to field device;

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Figure 3 depicts the system of Figure 2, additionally showing the transmission of FSK signals that are, in turn, encoded in AM signals over the isolation barrier from the field device to the control device;

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Figures 4A - 4B depicts the architecture of an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) embodying a communications system according to the invention;

Figure 5 depicts a dual tone asynchronous block of the ASIC of Figures 4A - 4C;

Figure 6 depicts an asynchronous frame supported by the dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

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Figure 7 depicts a relationship between NRZ and dual tone FSK as supported by the dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 18 depicts a FSK dual tone signal suffering from low frequency loss and then from high frequency loss of carrier;

Figure 19 depicts a count waveform at the integrate and dump circuit of Figure 19 resulting from the losses depicted in Figure 18;

Figure 20 is a block diagram of the PWM circuit in a dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 21 depicts a PWM waveform generated by a dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 22 depicts a FIR filter algorithm in a dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 23 depicts trapezoidal waveform that emerges from the FIR filter of Figure 22;

Figure 24 depicts a loopback configuration in a dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 25 is a block diagram of a pin controller of a dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5;

Figure 26 depicts a mapping of the I/O bit, Inversion bit and I/O mux control bits for a pin controller for Figure 25; and

Figure 27 depicts IO pin control registers in dual tone asynchronous block of Figure 5.

Detailed Description of the Illustrated Embodiment

Figure 1 illustrates a prior art system for galvanic isolation of the components of a process control system. Here, a control device 12 (e.g., a controller) generates a digital signal for controlling a field device 14. Those signals are transmitted to a modem (which may be integral to the control device or, more typically, coupled to it via a serial port) and modulated to analog form, more specifically, an frequency shift keying form, which can be a "tone" signal in the range of 1 - 5 kHz. A transformer 18 is used to pass the FSK signal across an isolation barrier 20 from the "control side" of the system to the "field side," where it can be applied to the field device directly, via a modem, or otherwise. By a similar mechanism, data (or other control) signals generated by the field device 14 are passed back over the transformer in FSK form, demodulated to digital form and routed to the control device 12 for processing. A drawback of systems of the type illustrated in Figure 1 is the cost, large size and high power requirements of the transformers required to transfer the FSK signals across the isolation barrier.

Figure 2 illustrates a system according to the invention for transmitting control, data and other information across an isolation barrier from a control device 12 to a field device 14. The illustrated embodiment is described in the context of process control, though those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention has application in industrial, environmental and other control systems as well.

Like numbered elements in Figures 1 and 2 pertain to like devices that perform like functions. Thus, the system of Figure 2 includes a first control device, such as controller 12, that generates a signal embodying command, data or other information (hereinafter, a "control" signal) for transfer to a second control device, such as field device 14. By way of non-limiting example, in the illustrated embodiment, controller 12 can be any type of control device, such as a controller, workstation, or the like. By way of further non-limiting example, field device 14 can be any of an actuator-type or sensor-type field device, of the "smart" variety or otherwise, available from the assignee hereof, or otherwise.

Of course, those it will be appreciated that the invention has application in the transfer of information between any variety of control devices. Thus, in further embodiments of the invention, the first and second control devices can be any of workstations, field controllers, field devices, smart field devices, or other device for any of industrial, manufacturing, service, environmental, or process control. Moreover, though the illustrated devices 12, 14 are in a control relationship, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the isolation mechanisms described herein can be utilized for communications between any devices in a control environment, regardless of whether those devices control one another, are controlled by one another, are peers or otherwise.

In the illustrated embodiment, the control signal generated by device 12 is in digital form (as graphically depicted by square wave 12a). This can be any proprietary or industry standard digital signal embodying desired command, data or other information generated by the device 12. The control signal is modulated to analog form (as graphically depicted by sine wave 16a) by modem 16' in any manner, proprietary or otherwise, known in the art. By way of non-limiting example, in the illustrated embodiment, the analog form is a frequency shift keying (FSK) signal defined by "tones" in the range of 1 - 5 kHz range that are superimposed on a 4 - 20 mA current signal, in the manner of industry standard FoxComm™ and HART™ protocols. Of course, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention has application in the transfer of other FSK and/or other frequency modulated signals, as well. This FSK (or tone) signal is superimposed on a 4 0

Pulse width modulator 22 converts the FSK control signal to a pulse width modulated (PWM) form, as graphically depicted by wave 22a. Such conversion can be accomplished using any proprietary or industry standard PWM circuitry and techniques known in the art and, preferably, is accomplished as described below. The modulator 22 can operate at any frequency suitable for the purposes hereof and, by way of non-limiting example, in the illustrated embodiment operates at 1 MHZ.

conventionally used in the process and other control arts for such purpose, again, however, smaller, less expensive and using less power than transformers traditionally used to carry FSK signals across an isolation barrier. By way of non-limiting example, transformers suitable for the inductive transfer of the amplitude modulated device signals have inductance in the range of 600 μH - 700 μH and, more preferably, 750 μH - 900 μH and, still more preferably, 1000 μH - 1500 μH . Suitable such transformers 18" of the type available, by way of non-limiting example, from the same sources as transformer 18'

Amplitude modulated device signals inductively transferred by the transformer 18" across the isolation barrier 20 are graphically depicted by wave 38b in the drawing. This signal is demodulated back into analog FSK form in any manner, proprietary or otherwise, known in the art. In the illustrated embodiment, by way of non-limiting example, this is accomplished through use of an envelope detector 40 with a time constant of between 1 μS and 2.5 μS and, preferably 1.5 μS . A preferred envelope detector comprises an capacitor of 220 pf and a resistor 6.81 k Ω configured as shown. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that capacitors and resistors of other values may be utilized to achieve the desired time constants.

The resulting analog signal, encoding the data and other information from the original device signal, is depicted by waveform 40a. This can be applied directly to the control device 12, via modem or otherwise.

In the illustrated embodiment, modems 16', 16", pulse width modulator 22 are embodied in a communications controller applications specific integrated circuit 42, which includes circuitry for performing other communications functions as well. That element 42 is referred to, alternatively, as the "ASIC" or "CommControl ASIC" in the text below. Those skilled in the art will, of course, appreciate that the invention can be implemented in other form factors, whether hardware or software, and with circuit element different than those shown in the drawing and described below.

The CommControl ASIC, as well as one or more other components illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 (apart from controller 12 and field device 14) can be embodied in any variety of input/output circuits utilized to communicate between process, environmental or other control devices. Such circuits can be integral with any such a control device (e.g., a controller) or embodied in a separate communication device. In the illustrated embodiment the ASIC and aforementioned components are embodied in an input/output module that is electrically coupled to, but physically separate from, the control devices 12 and 14. Such module is designated by the grayed regions of Figures 2 and 3.

The illustrated input/output module includes, in addition to the circuitry discussed above, circuitry that transfers power across the isolation barrier to drive the field side of the input/output module as well as to drive the field device 14 (and associated transmitter) itself. Such power circuitry is illustrated in the drawing as including a DC/DC converter, a transformer and a rectifier, all coupled in the manner shown and configured and operated in the manner conventional to the art. It will, of course, be appreciated that any other power transfer circuitry known in the art may be used for this purpose.

The illustrated input/output module includes additional circuitry that converts and transfers to the controller 12 a digital signal generated from the 4 - 20 mA current signal communicated between the input/output module and the field device 14. That current signal is traditionally referred to as the "analog" component of a FoxComm™ or HART™ signal, but shall be referred to as a "current signal" to avoid confusion with the FSK component (which is traditionally but somewhat erroneously referred to as a "digital" signal, but which shall continue to be referred to as an analog signal elsewhere herein). The additional circuitry includes an A/D converter, which converts the current signal to digital for transfer across the isolation barrier via the optical isolator (comprising a photo diode and transistor opposed across the barrier). The digital signal is routed to a processor local to the input/output module, which can format the signal for transfer to the controller 12. In addition to providing the aforementioned function, the processor coordinates and control operations of the other components of the input/output module, all in the manner traditional in the art.

While the circuitry described immediately above converts and transfers to the controller 12 a digital signal generated based on the milliamp current signal from the field device 14, those skilled in the art will appreciate that corresponding circuitry (not shown) can be provided to transfer a milliamp current to the field device from controller. Such corresponding circuitry utilizes a digital to analog converter and a voltage to current converter in place of the A/D converter of the illustrated circuit, all in the conventional manner.

Modem 16 and pulse width modulator 22 are discussed below in connection with the DUAL TONE feature of the ASIC. In the illustrated embodiment, this provides asynchronous FoxComm™ and HART™ communications through eight independent channels. High frequency pulse width modulation encoded transmission supports RF transformer galvanic isolation with minimal external circuit support and cost. In addition, ASIC 42 includes

- An 80186-compatible stored program microprocessor controller, which may be switched into slave mode to accommodate an external master controller and for external emulation during software development and debugging.
- High speed synchronous serial communications capability through two independent HDLC channels.
- Asynchronous serial communications capability through three UART devices (one is a standard console, and two are highly buffered "fastports").
- Field Analog Digital Input and Output Controller (FIOC) interacts with intelligent external analog and digital circuits for measurement and control. The FIOC supports state-machine controlled SPI interfaces that need minimal microprocessor intervention. External I/O pin

The operation mode is selected with the HOLD input pin. For normal (internal master) mode, the HOLD pin must be either low or open. For external v186 (slave) mode, the HOLD pin must be high.

5 The ASIC may be operated in two different processor modes. In the normal (master) mode, the internal v186 is in control of the HDLC, UARTs, DUAL TONE and FIOC peripherals, and the bus signals are brought out for memory transactions and also for visibility. In the alternate (slave) mode, the internal v186 is turned off line (by asserting the HOLD pin high), and the HDLC, UARTs, DUAL TONE and FIOC peripherals are under the control of an external bus master for emulation, debugging and diagnostics. The operation mode is selected with the HOLD input pin. For normal (internal master) mode, the HOLD
10 pin must be either low or open. For external v186 (slave) mode, the HOLD pin must be high.

Characteristics of the ASIC 42 are overviewed in the table below:

	CONCEPT	CHARACTERISTIC	COMMENTS
	CLOCK RATES	Microprocessor: Nominally 20MHz	The U_CLK pin drives the internal microprocessor clock. Its minimum frequency is 16MHz. May be run at higher frequency.
5		HDLC 2MHz	The C_CLK pin drives the HDLC controller, and DUAL TONE logic. Its nominal frequency is 16MHz, which is divided internally by 8 to achieve 2Mbit/sec. An 8.6MHz clock may be used instead for 268.75Kbit/second HDLC (divide by 32).
10	INTERNAL PROCESSOR	Compatible with INTEL 80186.	Internal processor may be disabled to allow use of an external processor for emulation, debugging, test, or even normal operation. Addressing capability is up to 20 bits (up to 1Mbytes of SRAM and 1Mbytes of ROM).
15	DIGITAL/ANALOG I/O PINS	Fully configurable.	Software-programmable as inputs/outputs, with or without logic inversion. Pins have full matrix connectivity to select any internal digital/analog blocks; as well as DUAL TONE blocks.
20	WATCHDOG TIMEOUT	Bit must be toggled at least every 60msec.	If processor fails to toggle watchdog keep alive bit, it will be reset.
25	FAIL SAFE PROTECTION	If enabled, analog and digital outputs go to a pre-defined condition.	Caused by watchdog timeout or by control processor command.
30	STATUS AND CHANNEL LED INDICATOR SIGNALS	"Red and green" LED signals to indicate the operational status of the module. LED signals to indicate channel on-off status.	
	HDLC	Two independent HDLC controllers.	Point to point only. No SDLC loop mode. The speed is nominally 2Mbit/sec, with other options possible. Supports block DMA communications.
35	PROCESSOR INTERRUPTS	(INT)4-0 used by internal peripherals in fully nested interrupt mode. INT ₅ available for external device.	Interrupt lines support the DMA transmission and reception of HDLC messages. The interrupts occur upon the reception of a whole message into memory, or after the transmission of a whole message out from memory. Also UARTs may interrupt processor.
40	PROCESSOR DMA	DREQ0 and DREQ1	DMA request signals support DMA block transmission and reception of HDLC frames. The processor is not burdened during the HDLC transfers.
45	CONSOLE SERIAL PORTS	Three independent UARTs.	One industry standard PC serial port UART with full set of modem signals, to be used as a console, or to support an infrared port. Two other "fastport" UARTs without modem signals, designed for compatibility plus software efficiency for inter-board communication.
50	FOXCOMM/	Eight independent chan-	Inputs and outputs fully configurable. Supports

HART

ncls.

high frequency PWM to drive small external RF transformers. May be operated as simple UART.

5 Pinouts of the table are presented in the table below:

	NAME	IO	INT(1) RES	DESCRIPTION
10	(ADDR) ₁₉₋₀	IO		Address. Memory and IO address for an address space of 1M bytes. It is an output for normal (internal v186) mode, and its (least significant eight bits (ADDR)7-0() are an input for external v186 mode.
15	ALE	IO		Address Latch Enable. When asserted high, the contents of the DABUS are latched into the internal address latch. It is an output for normal (internal v186) mode, and an input for external 186 mode.
20	(ARX) ₂₋₀	I	UP	Asynchronous Receive. Pins with subindex 0, 1 and 2 are the serial data inputs for UART0 (console), UART1 and UART2, respectively.
25	(ATX) ₂₋₀	O		Asynchronous Transmit. Pins with subindex 0, 1 and 2 are the serial data outputs for UART0 (console), UART1 and UART2, respectively.
30	BHE_N	IO		Byte High Enable. Asserted low for byte bus transactions in the high byte of a 16-word (odd byte address). It is an output for normal (internal v186) mode, and an input for external v186 mode.
35	C_CLK	I		Communications Clock. This is the clock that drives the HDLC channels and DUAL TONE block. It is nominally 16MHz.
40	(CHAN_IND) ₁₅₋₀	O		Channel Status Indicators. Used to control external channel LEDs. See Table VII.3 on page107.
45	CLK_OK_N	I		Clock OK. Normally low. When high it forces LED_G low (green LED turns off) and LED_R high (red LED turns on), even if the master clock U_CLK has stopped.
50	CTS_N	I	UP	Clear To Send. Modem input to console UART. Asserted low.
	(DABUS) ₁₅₋₀	IO	UP	Data-Address Bus. Bidirectional multiplexed address and data bus. The LSB corresponds to the LSB of internal registers.
	DCD_N	I	UP	Data Carrier Detect. Modem input to console UART. Asserted low.
	(DIAG_SIG) ₇₋₀	IO	DOWN	Input/Output Signals. These signals are used for discrete input and output diagnostics.
	(DMAREQ) ₁₋₀	O		DMA Request. A high in either of these signals indicates a DMA request posted by their corresponding HDLC. In normal (internal v186) mode, these signals echo internal activity and may therefore be used for testing. In external v186 mode, these signals must be connected to the corresponding external microprocessor inputs.
	DSR_N	I	UP	Data Set Ready. Modem input to console UART. Asserted low.
	DTR_N	O		Data Terminal Ready. Modem output from console UART. Asserted low.
	GCLKOUT	O		General Clock Out. The output signal on this pin is program selected from several internal sources in the SYSTEM REGIS-

Pin	Signal	Direction	Default	Description
5	PS_CLK	O		Power Safe Clock. A constant frequency (400 KHz nominal) is always present on this pin while the chip is powered up. Otherwise, power has been removed from the chip, or a chip failure has occurred. Derived from U_CLK by a programmable divide constant (see Controls Power supply clock rate Table VII.3).
10	RD_N	IO		Read. Asserted low during a read cycle. It is an output for normal (internal v186) mode, and an input for external 186 mode.
15	RESET_N	I		Master Reset. Assert this signal low to initialize the chip into a known state. The pin must be held asserted at least four U_CLK cycles for proper initialization of the v186 microprocessor.
20	RES186OUT	O		Reset Out. This signal becomes asserted high during any internal v186 reset (this may be due to a watchdog timeout). This signal also echoes assertions of the reset_n input. Alternatively, if TREE_EN is high, this becomes the output pin for the NAND tree test circuit.
25	RI_N	I	UP	Ring Indicator. Modem input to console UART. Asserted low.
	RTS_N	O		Request To Send. Modem output from console UART. Asserted low.
30	(RX)1-0	I		Receive. Pins with subindex 0 and 1 are the serial data inputs for HDLC0 and HDLC1 respectively.
	(RX_DIS)1-0	O		Receiver Disable. Pins with subindex 0 and 1 are asserted high to turn off the external receive buffer corresponding to HDLC0 and HDLC1 respectively.
35	SCAN_ENABLE	I	DOWN	Scan Enable. Must be tied low (or left open) during normal operation. This pin is only driven high during scan test, in order to enable the flip flop scan chain, and to shift in serially a set of flip flop states. A one clock evaluation is performed with this pin low. This is followed by forcing this pin high again, to shift out the resulting states for test analysis.
40	SCAN_TEST	I	DOWN	Scan Test. This pin must be tied low (or left open) during normal system operation. This pin is set high during scan test of the ASIC. This forces the internal flip flops to be driven by their respective scan domain clock (C_CLK or U_CLK). It also forces all bidirectional pins as outputs, eliminates all internal loops, and removes the effect of internal signals on flip flop direct set and clear.
45	(SLOT_ID) ₄₋₀	I	UP (low Û)	Slot Identification. Intended for hard-wiring a 5-bit code that identifies the printed circuit board environment and intended use of the ASIC. This code may be read by the microprocessor. See Table VII.3 on page 107, Config/Status.
50	SRDYIN	I	UP	Synchronous Data Ready Input. When this input is deasserted low, it causes the internal 186 to extend its memory cycle. In addition, the SRDYOUT pin is also deasserted low. This pin must be kept high or left open for normal operation. To be used by an external peripheral that requires extended memory cycles.

	SRDYOUT	O		Synchronous Data Ready Output. This output is deasserted low for as long as an internal peripheral requires the microprocessor to extend its memory cycle. It is also deasserted low if the SRDYIN input is deasserted low. Connect this pin to the SRDY pin of an external 186 whenever the ASIC is used in external 186 mode.
5	(STATUS) ₃₋₀	OZ		Microprocessor Status. Indicates the state of the internal v186 microprocessor. The code is detailed in Table I.3. High impedance in external 186 mode.
10	TREE_EN	I	DOWN	Tree Scan Enable. Must be tied low (or left open) during normal operation. Assert this pin high to observe NAND tree test output in RES186OUT.
	(TX) ₁₋₀	O		Transmit. Pins with subindex 0 and 1 are the serial data outputs for HDLC0 and HDLC1 respectively.
15	(TX_EN) ₁₋₀	O		Transmit Enable. Pins with subindex 0 and 1 are asserted high to turn on the external transmitter driver corresponding to HDLC0 and HDLC1 respectively.
20	U_CLK	I		Microprocessor Clock. This is the master clock. It drives the internal v186 microprocessor, as well as other IO components. It is nominally 20MHz. This clock's frequency must be greater or equal than the frequency at the C_CLK pin.
25	UCS_N	OZ		High Chip Select. This signal is asserted low whenever a memory reference is made to the upper memory portion of the address space. Drives the external FLASH chip select. High impedance in external 186 mode.
	WR_N	IO		Write. Asserted low during a write cycle. It is an output for normal (internal v186) mode, and an input for external 186 mode.

1. Internal pullup or pulldown resistor.

30	S3	S2	S1	S0	CODE
	X	0	0	0	Interrupt Acknowledge
	X	0	0	1	Read I/O
	X	0	1	0	Write I/O
	X	0	1	1	Halt
35	X	1	0	0	Instruction Fetch
	X	1	0	1	Memory Read
	X	1	1	0	Memory Write
	X	1	1	1	Idle
	0	X	X	X	Processor Cycle
40	1	X	X	X	DMA Cycle

	INTERRUPT	DEVICE
	INT ₅	Available for external device.
	INT ₄	UART2
45	INT ₃	UART1
	INT ₂	UART0 (Console)
	INT ₁	HDLC1
	INT ₀	HDLC0

The Dual Tone Asynchronous Serial Communication block (DTASC) of Figure 4A is a computer peripheral capable of transmitting and receiving data bytes asynchronously as a serial-bit message. The message may be encoded in either of three signal encoding formats: NRZ bit frames, dual tone frequency shift keying (which may be used for example with the well-known Fox-CommI,TM FoxCommIITM or HART protocols), and high frequency pulse width modulated (PWM) signal (transmission only). The block contains eight identical channels, as illustrated in Figure 5, each of which may be independently programmed to operate in any of the aforementioned signal formats. The block contains a register set similar to a UART, but with no interrupt or modem handshake signal support.

The DTASC block contains eight identical and independent Dual Tone channels. Each channel may be programmed independently for FoxComm™ (IT1-IT2) or HART communications. 1MHz Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) transmission supports external high frequency transformer isolation circuitry for both transmission and reception. The block has trapezoidal dual tone smoothing effect built into PWM transmission which adheres to HART specifications. Data may be transmitted as either asynchronous serial frame NRZ, dual tone, or modulated pulse width. Data may be received as dual tone, or serial frame NRZ. The transmitter is buffered with a 8 byte deep FIFO. Receiver is buffered with 16 byte deep FIFO. The block provides polled-based communication, with no interrupt support. A -rogrammable baud generator divides input clock frequency for baud rates between 1/16 and 212 . The block is fully programmable: 5-8 bit characters; even, odd or no parity; and, one or two stop bits. The block permits break generation and detection. The transmitter automatically adds and receiver automatically removes start, parity and stop bits. The block supports full duplex NRZ communications, as well as half duplex dual tone and PWM communications. System loopback mode is available for testing all eight channels, each channel transmitting to another channel and receiving from another channel.

FRAME FORMAT

Referring to Figure 6, for each of the three formats supported by the DTASC, the message unit is the bit-serial frame, which conveys from five to eight bits of information, plus optional parity bit. The frame consists of a start bit. The start bit (MARK) is immediately followed by the data bits (between five to eight) LSB first. These are followed by an optional parity bit (either even, odd or stick parity). The frame ends with a stop bit (SPACE).

SIGNAL FORMAT

Nrz Format

In this format a zero bit is represented by a low (SPACE) signal, and a one bit is represented by a high (MARK). Thus the signal is merely an unencoded frame, as shown in Figure 6.

Dual Tone Fsk Signal Encoding

The block supports three dual tone FSK formats: FoxCommI™, FoxCommII™ and HART. A dual tone FSK signal represents a zero or one bit with either a low or a high frequency tone (digital square wave). The bit data rate and tone frequencies are listed in the table below:

	BAUD RATE	NOMINAL MARK FREQUENCY - NRZ	NOMINAL SPACE FREQUENCY - NRZ ZERO
MODE	(Hz)	ONE (Hz)	(Hz)
FoxComm I (IT1)	600	5,208	3,125
FoxComm II (IT2)	4800	10,417	6,250
HART	1200	1,200	2,200
	Effective peak to peak rise and fall time: 133 μsec		

The relationship between NRZ and dual tone FSK is illustrated in Figure 7.

Pulse Width Modulated Signal Encoding

The PWM signal encoding is supported only for transmission. The intention of this format is to provide a high frequency encoded signal to drive external transformers for galvanic signal isolation. The high frequency reduces the size of the transformers, and results in more efficient external support circuitry.

The dual tone FSK itself modulates the PWM, so that the FSK will be available after demodulating the signal in the secondary of the external transformer for remote transmission.

The PWM has a basic 1MHz frequency (1µs period). The signal “on time” during this period is modulated within the range of $\left(\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{3}{16}\right) \mu s = \left[\frac{5}{16}, \frac{11}{16}\right] \mu s$ in $\frac{1}{16} \mu s$ increments to encode the FSK. This results in a duty cycle of 50% \pm 6.25% increments. Dual tone valleys are encoded with a lower “on time”, and dual tone peaks are encoded with a higher “on time”. In IT1 and IT2 modes, the PWM transitions vary abruptly from 31.25% to 68.75% duty cycle. In HART mode, the PWM transitions are encoded with a “staircase” trapezoidal dual tone signal, so that the “on time” changes in three discrete steps either above or three discrete steps below the “unmodulated” 50% duty cycle signal. See Figure 8.

BLOCK PINOUT

The DTASC block pinout is detailed in the table below:

NAME	I/O	DESCRIPTION
(ADDR) _{2:0}	I	Address. Used to encode the address of the internal control, status or data registers.
CLK4MHZ	I	Clock 4MHz. This is the primary clock from which the baudrate is derived, as well as all other clocks that generate the dual tone.
CLK16MHZ	I	Clock 16 MHz. This clock is used to generate the PWM signal.
CS_N	I	Chip Select. Assert low to read or write the internal registers and data FIFOs. The block is not selected when deasserted high.
(DIN) _{15:0}	I	Input Data Bus. Contains the 8-bit data to be written into the internal registers or transmit FIFO (bits D ₇ (-D ₀)). Bit 0 is the LSB, and corresponds to the internal registers' LSB. The width is sixteen bits to accommodate the Channel Select Register, whose byte data is at an odd address (the high byte of the corresponding 16-bit word).
(DOUT) _{15:0}	O	Output Data Bus. Contains the 8-bit data read from the internal registers or receive FIFO. Bit 0 is the LSB, and corresponds to the internal register's LSB. The width is sixteen bits for a reason similar to DIN.
HBYTE	I	High byte. Asserted high if a write transaction occurs in the high byte.
LBYTE	I	Low byte. Asserted high if a write transaction occurs in the low byte.
RD_N	I	Read. Must be asserted low to read out the contents of internal registers or the receive FIFO onto the output data bus DOUT.

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HEX ADDRESS	NAME	RW	BIT	DESCRIPTION
0	CHANNEL SELECT REGISTER	RW	D ₇ -D ₀	Write here a binary number to select the corresponding channel. Any subsequent write or read references to registers in the address range 1-6 refer to the selected channel. Note: This is a byte wide register
5	1 RECEIVER AND TRANSMITTER DATA BUFFER REGISTER	RW	D ₇ -D ₀	Write at this location the data to be transmitted (LSB is first bit out). Read from this location the received data (First bit in is in LSB). Note: This is a byte wide register
2	LINE CONTROL REGISTER (LCR)	W	D ₁₅₋₁₃ D ₁₂ D ₁₁ D ₁₀ D ₉₋₈ D ₇ D ₆ D ₅ D ₄ D ₃ D ₂ D ₁ -D ₀	Reserved for Test. Loopback. Hysteresis. Set high to maximize hysteresis to recover the bit serial data from the continuous autocorrelator output. It is recommended to keep this bit high. Reserved. 11 Reserved 10 HART. Set high for HART communications - 1200 baud 01 FoxII. IT2 mode communications - 4800 baud. 00 FoxI. IT1 mode communications - 600 baud. Integrate Dump. Set high to use integrate and dump circuit in the demodulator, instead of the continuous autocorrelation circuit. It is recommended to keep this bit low. Set Break. Set this bit high to send a break (continuous mark). Stick Parity. If 1, stick parity is enabled. With stick parity, frame parity bit is the logic complement of D ₄ . Even Parity Select. If 0, odd parity, if 1 even parity. Parity Enable. If 0, no parity bit in frame, if 1, parity bit in frame. The parity bit is determined from the settings of D ₅ -D ₄ . Stop bits. If 0, one stop bit, if 1, two stop bits. 11 Character size 8 bits

This is an 8-bit register, that points to the currently selected channel. It acts as an index for all read or write access to any other registers in the DTASC. This register is typically written first for channel selection.

5 Receiver And Transmitter Buffer Register (Address 1)

The RECEIVER BUFFER REGISTER is a readonly byte register located at address 1. The TRANSMITTER BUFFER REGISTER is a writeonly byte register located also at address 1. Data bytes written into the TRANSMITTER BUFFER REGISTER are stored in a 8-level deep transmit FIFO of the selected channel, ready for transmission. However, transmission itself does not start until the Transmit Enable Bit in the MASTER CONTROL REGISTER is set high. Data received by the receiver is stored in a 16-level deep receive FIFO. The data is read out the FIFO through this RECEIVER BUFFER REGISTER.

Line Control Register (Address 2)

This write-only 16-bit register determines the data frame format, in number of bits and parity. It also contains the bit used to send out a break character.

Loopback (D12)

Set this bit high to enable local loopback mode in the selected channel. In loopback mode, the transmitter dual tone FSK output is fed back to the receiver dual tone FSK input, and the TXON output is forced low.

20 Hysteresis (D11)

This bit affects the dual tone FSK receiver of the selected channel only. This bit should be normally high, so the continuous autocorrelator circuit output is evaluated with maximum hysteresis, which is the

preferred configuration (see Section IV.7.6.1). If this bit is set low, hysterehysteresissis is considerably reduced. This bit is overridden by the Integrate Dump bit (D7).

FoxComm/HART Protocol Selection (D9-D8)

These two bits determine the type of dual tone signal in the selected channel, whether FoxCommI, FoxCom-mII or HART. In addition to setting these bits properly, the appropriate baud rate has to be programmed into the BAUD DIVISOR LATCH.

Integrate Dump (D7)

This bit affects the dual tone FSK receiver of the selected channel only. This bit should be normally low, so the demodulator output is driven by the internal continous autocorrelator circuit, which is the preferred configuration. If set high, the demodulator output is instead driven by the internal integrate and dump circuit, which is normally used only for carrier detection. This bit overrides the Hysterisis bit (D11).

Set Break (D6)

Set this bit high to force a low (mark) at the TXQ NRZ transmitter serial output. A continuous mark on the line with a duration equivalent to one full frame is considered a break character. The usage of this bit to send out a break character is as follows: Write an arbitrary byte to the TRANSMITTER BUFFER REGISTER. Follow this immediately by setting the Set Break bit high, which forces the line low. Now poll the Transmitter FIFO Empty bit in the LINE STATUS REGISTER, until his bit is cleared low. When this occurs, clear the Set Break bit. This will send a break character with the desired duration.

Stick Parity (D5)

Set this bit high to enable stick parity in both transmitter and receiver. With stick parity enabled, the frame has a parity bit which is forced to be the logic complement of bit D4. The name of bit D4 is Even Parity Select, even though there is no relation with even parity when used for stick parity. This mechanism allows to force the parity bit to any value, regardless of the data. Write this bit low to disable stick parity, which is the desired setting when normal even or odd parity is desired.

Even Parity Select (D4)

Write this bit high for even parity in both transmitter and receiver. In even parity, the number of high bits in the frame is even, including the parity bit. Write this bit low for odd parity in both transmitter and receiver. In odd parity, the number of high bits in the frame is odd, including the parity bit. This even/odd parity scheme applies when the Stick Parity bit D5 is low. However, if the Stick Parity bit D5 is high, D4 is no longer an even parity bit. Instead, the parity bit in the frame is forced to be the logic complement of this bit D4.

Parity Enable (D3)

Write this bit high to enable parity in both transmitter and receiver. Parity may be odd/even parity, or stick parity. If this bit is low, parity is disabled, and the transmitter does not send a parity bit as part of the frame, and the receiver does not expect a parity bit as part of the frame.

Stop Bits (D2)

Writing this bit high forces the transmitter to send two contiguous stop bits. Writing this bit low causes the transmitter to send only one stop bit to end the frame.

Word Length (D1-D0)

This field determines the number of data bits in both the transmitter and the receiver, according to the table below:

Framing Error (D3)

This bit is high if the data stored in the last position of the FIFO (or receiver buffer if FIFOs disabled) was received with a framing error. A framing error occurs when the frame is not terminated by at least one stop bit. This bit is low when no framing error has been detected.

- 5 It is a low (space) in the receiver frame that causes a framing error (when a high was expected). The receiver resynchronizes itself, treating this low in the frame as a start bit of a new frame.

Parity Error (D2)

This bit is high if the data stored in the last position of the FIFO (or receiver buffer if FIFOs disabled) was received with a parity error. This bit is low when no parity error has been detected.

10

Overrun Error (D1)

This bit is high if an attempt was made to overwrite the data that is now stored in the last position of the FIFO (or receiver buffer). This attempt occurs when a frame's reception is completed at a time that the receive FIFO (or data buffer if FIFOs disabled) is full. The data already stored is not overwritten, but the data that has been just received gets lost. This bit is low when no attempt to overwrite data occurred during the last frame reception.

15

Data Ready (D0)

This bit is high when the receive FIFO (or data buffer if FIFOs disabled) is not empty. This indicates that at least one received character may be read out. This bit is low when the FIFO (or data buffer) is empty, and there is no data to read.

20

Baud Divisor Latch (Address 4)

This register determines the baud rate according to the following rule. The raw transmitter and receiver clock frequency is the ratio of the C_CLK clock input frequency divided by four and divided by

the PWM circuit, and the data at the serial input and serial output is dual tone. The PWM encoding forces high frequency pulse-width-modulated data to be transmitted at the serial output, and expects to receive dual tone data at the serial input.

Transmit Enable (D5)

Setting this bit high forces the data stored in the transmit FIFO (or holding register when FIFOs are not enabled) to be transmitted out. Keeping this bit low allows data to be written to the transmit FIFO without starting transmission. This feature is not usually found in standard UARTs, which instead respond to FIFO writes by automatically initiating transmission. Use of this bit facilitates maximum FIFO utilization, so that the FIFO may first be filled, and the transmission may then be commenced by setting this bit high with a full FIFO. Clearing this bit somewhere in the middle of a frame during a transmission does not stop the transmission. Rather, the current frame transmission is carried out to completion, and only then the transmitter stops.

FIFO Enable (D4)

Write this bit high to enable the transmit and receive FIFOs. Write this bit low to disable the FIFOs. The transmit FIFO is eight bytes deep, the receive FIFO is sixteen bytes deep. When the FIFOs are disabled, the transmitter operates with a transmit holding buffer, and the receiver operates with a receiver buffer. FIFOs increase the data throughput, and ease the processor's service of the DTASC.

Reset Transmitter (D3)

Write this bit to reset the transmitter. The bit is "push-button". Writing the bit high initiates the reset, and the bit is self-clearing.

Reset Receiver (D2)

Write this bit to reset the receiver. The bit is "push-button". Writing the bit high initiates the reset, and the bit is self-clearing.

Transmitter FIFO reset (D1)

Write this bit high to reset the transmit FIFO. The bit is “push-button”. Writing the bit high initiates the FIFO reset, and the bit is self-clearing.

5 Receiver FIFO reset (D0)

Write this bit high to reset the receive FIFO. The bit is “push-button”. Writing the bit high initiates the FIFO reset, and the bit is self-clearing.

STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

10 As shown in Figure 5, the DTASC is made of eight communication channels, each consisting of a transmitter and a receiver. The DTASC transmitter is made of a Universal Serial Transmitter, an FSK Modulator and a PWM circuit. The Universal Serial Transmitter converts parallel bytes into NRZ equivalent serial frames (LSB is transmitted first), with start, data, optional parity and stop bits. The Modulator converts the resulting NRZ serial bit frame into equivalent dual tone FSK. The PWM circuit has
15 the width of its high frequency pulse modulated by the dual tone FSK. The actual transmitted signal may be chosen among any one of the Universal Serial Transmitter, the Modulator or the PWM circuit modules.

The DTASC receiver is made of an FSK Demodulator and a Universal Serial Receiver. The Demodulator takes in FSK dual tone signal and recovers the equivalent NRZ serial data bits (including
20 start, parity and stop bits). The Universal Serial Receiver strips the start, parity and stop bits, and converts the NZR serial frame into parallel bytes of data. The incoming signal may be either FSK or NRZ, and it may be routed to the appropriate module. See Figure 9.

Local loopback is routed from the FSK Modulator output to the FSK Demodulator input. The
25 local loopback may be used to test the integrity of all the block’s internal modules, except for the PWM circuit.

The transmitter may be serviced by polling. When polling, read the Transmitter FIFO Empty Bit in the LINE STATUS REGISTER. Enabling the FIFOs relieves the burden of servicing the UART, since up to sixteen characters may be stored in the FIFO by writing them all sequentially and without interruption into the TRANSMITTER BUFFER REGISTER.

Receiver

Description

The receiver is organized around a serial to parallel converter. After detecting a start bit, the frame bits are shifted serially into the converter, including up to the first stop bit. The stored frame is examined for possible parity errors, framing errors, and also for the possibility of being a break character. This error/status condition is stored together with the data into an 11-bit (three bits for error, plus eight data bits) receiver holding register, or into the 16-deep receiver FIFO if enabled. The errors affect the readout of the LINE STATUS REGISTER when the data gets to the read end of the FIFO.

Detection of the start bit is done with the help of a simple transition filter, in order to ignore any possible spurious low noise pulses in the receive line. Data is first clocked by the raw receiver clock into an eight-register transition filter. The transition filter declares a start bit only if four consecutive samples are low after four consecutive high samples. Once a start bit is detected, the rest of the frame is sampled at the estimated half point of each bit, based on the given baud rate. The raw receiver clock (obtained from the master clock input CLK after division by the divisor latch) is 16 times faster than the data (baud) rate.

FSK Modulator

The FSK modulator accepts as input a simple non-return to zero data bit stream and encodes it as a dual tone signal. The resulting dual tone is characterized by only two possible discrete periods, depending on the data to be encoded. The duration of the signal “peaks” and “valleys” is itself quantized to two possible discrete time constants, as illustrated in Figure 11.

IT2	250.0	23	41	22	24/40	52
HART	62.5	28	44	20	28/52	52

Figure 15 illustrates the relation between the dual tone input tone, its 28-bit delayed signal dtone, their XOR comparison xor for HART, plus a bit boundary. The XOR signal is mostly low for a low frequency tone input, which drives the counter down towards an NRZ zero resolution. Conversely, the XOR signal is mostly high for a high frequency tone input, which drives the counter up towards an NRZ one resolution.

Figure 16 illustrates the counter's permitted and out of bound ranges for HART, as well as the time value of the counter, as it swings towards its saturation high and low. The JK trigger points for minimum hysteresis are shown within the counter valid range.

Integrate And Dump

Referring to Figure 17, the integrate and dump method accumulates (integrate) a count until a transition is detected in the FSK dual tone input, at which point the counter is initialized to one (dump). If the count is plotted with respect to time, the resulting sawtooth waveform has maximum peaks which are smaller for high frequency tone, and greater for low frequency tone. The essence of the integrate and dump method is to compare these maximum peaks with respect to two discrete legal bands (defined by min, med and max constants). If the peaks are within these bands, the dual tone is legal, and the equivalent NRZ bit is simply decoded from the particular band where the peak lies. The counter saturates when it reaches the upper limit to avoid overruns.

The integrate and dump circuit is very effective for carrier detection. It can easily detect if the tone is outside the frequency bounds of the protocol. The validity of the tone may be read from the LSR register.

Described above are methods and apparatus for communication across an isolation barrier meeting the objects set forth above, among others. It will be appreciated that the illustrated embodiment is merely an example of the invention and that other embodiments, incorporating changes therein, also fall within the scope of the invention. Thus, by way of example, it will be appreciated that inductive elements other than transformers may be used to carry the pulse width modulated and amplitude modulated signals between the control devices. By way of further example, it will be appreciated that the illustrated methods and apparatus can be used in control applications other than process control, e.g., industrial, environmental and other control applications. By way of still further example, it will be appreciated that PWM signals can be used to transfer information in both directions between the control devices. By way of still further example, it will be appreciated that the methods and apparatus discussed herein may be utilized for communications between any variety of control devices, not just controllers and field devices. In view of the foregoing, what we claim is: